

*variegata, pellucida, sulco ab umbonibus parvulis ad basin decurrente insigni.*

*Hab.* Port Lincoln.

Testa minima, vix 2 lin. longa, tenuissima, pellucens, lineis rufis undulatis et reticulatis picta, antice et postice tenuiter costulata. Pagina interna margaritacea; margo cardinis tenuissime crenulatus.

#### 25. LANISTINA CONCINNA.

*L. testa parvula, fragili, ovata, modice convexa, flava lineis nonnullis præsertim apices versus undulatis et angulatis fuscis picta, epidermide viridi pellucente vestita, sulcis ab apicibus parvulis incurvis utroque latere radiantibus instructa.*

*Hab.* Ad Philippinarum insulam Zeba (*Cuming*).

Species 7 lin. longa,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lin. alta,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lin. crassa, antice angustata, postice dilatata, paullulum compressa. Margo dorsalis æqualiter parumque arcuatus, basalis pæne rectilineus. Extremitas antica angusta arcuata, costulis nonnullis signata, ultra apices minutos incurvos prominens. Costulæ planæ marginem versus ex parte furcillatæ in latere postico 20–24 numerantur; interstitia earum latitudinem non excedunt.

Differt hæc species a *Modiola strigata*, Hanl. (*Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1844), testa minus convexa, postice magis dilatata, umbonibus haud tumidis costulisque latioribus planis partim dichotomis.

#### 26. CRENELLA BULLA.

*C. testa fragili, oblique elliptica, bullata, alba, striis tenerrimis confertissimis ab umbonibus radiantibus sub vitro tantum cognoscentibus undique instructa, epidermide tenuissima pallida obducta; umbonibus incurvis gracilibus anticis; ligamento brevi; toto margine intus subtiliter crenulato.*

*Hab.* Ad Philippinarum insulam Luzon.

Testa tenuissima, perfragilis, pellucida, tota alba, 5 lin. longa, 4 lin. alta, 4 lin. crassa, subglobosa vel bullata, ambitum fere exacte ellipticum refert, si modo angulum obtusum, quem margo cardinalis posticus cum latere postico format, non respicis.

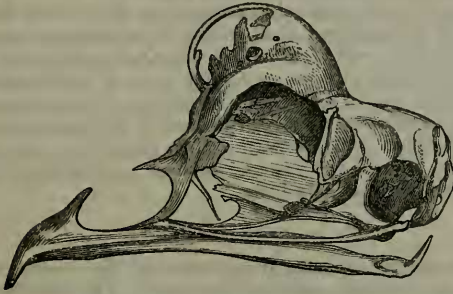
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November 25, 1856.

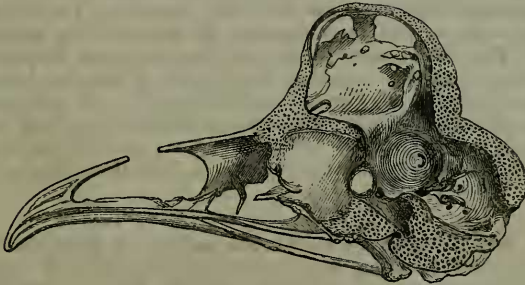
J. S. Gaskoin, Esq., F.L.S., in the Chair.

Mr. Tegetmeier brought before the notice of the Members living specimens and preparations illustrating the very remarkable peculiarities existing in the skulls of the feather-crested variety of the domestic Fowl, now known as Polish. In these birds, the anterior portion of the frontal bone is expanded into a large spherical tuberosity or cyst, which is partly osseous and partly membranous; the

anterior portions of the brain are entirely contained in this tuberosity, being protected from external injury solely by the feathers of the crest and the integuments; the posterior portions are situated, as



No. 1.—Skull of Crested Hen (var. Golden-spangled Polish), showing spherical tuberosity and deficient intermaxillary bones.



No. 2.—Longitudinal vertical section of the skull of a Crested Cock (var. Silver-spangled Polish), showing the shape of the cavity containing the encephalon.

usual, in the cavity of the cranium: as the communication between it and the tuberosity is constricted, the brain necessarily assumes the form of an hour-glass, the anterior being the larger portion.

This very extraordinary structure, which is well developed even before the escape of the chick from the shell, was noticed by Peter Borelli in 1656, and again described with many errors by Blumenbach in 'De Nisus formativi Aberrationibus,' 1813. Blumenbach states that it is confined to the females, which is incorrect; that the fowls are remarkably stupid, whereas their instincts do not appear to differ in the slightest degree from those of the other non-incubating varieties of domestic fowl; and lastly, that the tuberosity is caused by a tight constriction of the integuments, which however does not exist.

Pallas, who also notices the peculiarity, erroneously attributes it

to a cross with the Numidian meleagris; and the description of a very old specimen in the Catalogue of the Museum of the College of Surgeons, states it to be the result of disease, whereas it is the normal condition of all largely crested fowls.

An intimate connexion exists between the size of the tuberosity and that of the feathered crest, so that those chickens may be selected at birth that will eventually possess the largest crests.

The intermaxillary bones are usually more or less deficient in all the varieties of crested fowls, the nostrils arched, and the comb when present is crescentic or bicorned. Several of the varieties of crested fowls are destitute of fleshy wattles, their place being supplied by a ruff or beard of feathers; there is, however, no corresponding alteration in the lower maxillary bone.

Mr. Woodward exhibited preparations of the mantle and oral apparatus of the recent British Terebratula (*T. caput-serpentis*), specimens of which had been forwarded in a living state from Oban, Argyle, by J. Leckenby, Esq., of Scarborough. It appears that this shell, although a native of the deep sea, can live a week out of water, if placed in a bottle or tin-box with moist sea-weed. The valves are so accurately adjusted as to prevent the escape of the contained fluid. The mantle, arms and cirri of this species are frosted over with radiated *spicula*, composed of carbonate of lime, as described by Oscar Schmidt, and form a beautiful object for the polariscope. To the palæontologist this structural peculiarity is extremely interesting, as it explains the preservation of many parts of the internal organization, including the delicate *cirri* in fossil *Brachiopoda*.

Mr. Fraser exhibited a considerable number of Birds, from the collection of T. C. Eyton, Esq., and more particularly drew attention to a singular variety of *Ramphastos discolorus*, Linn., in which the blood-red colouring of the abdomen and upper tail-coverts was replaced by chrome-yellow.

The specimen was procured from Rio de Janeiro.

He next directed attention to a species of *Trogon*, which is so nearly allied to *Trogon collaris*, Vieill., that by most writers it might be considered as identical with, or a mere variety of that species. This bird, for which Mr. Fraser proposed the name of *Trogon Eytoni*, differs, however, in having the mandibles larger and more robust; the plumage of the neck and breast of a fine coppery bronze, instead of green; the central tail-feathers bronze instead of green; and the barring of the wing-coverts and lateral tail-feathers broader, and consequently more distinct.

Total length,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches; bill,  $\frac{7}{8}$ ; wing,  $4\frac{3}{4}$ ; tail,  $5\frac{3}{4}$ .

*Hab.* Rio de Janeiro.

The third specimen was a fine species of *Juida* (which Mr. Fraser proposed to call *Juida Eytoni*), nearly allied to *Juida longicauda*,

